

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-20 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /070 W

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P R 111804Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2328

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: VELASCO MARKS SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION

1. FORCED BY OCTOBER 3'S EARTHQUAKE TO DELAY HIS SPEECH MARKING THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUP THAT BROUGHT HIM TO POWER, PRESIDENT VELASCO DELIVERED A LACKLUSTER NINETY MINUTE ADDRESS ON OCT. 9. THERE WAS LITTLE OF DOMESTIC INTEREST ALTHOUGH HE FULMINATED AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION.

2. VELASCO LASHED OUT AT INTERAMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION, CALLING IT AGENT OF NEWSPAPER OWNERS AND ACCUSING IT OF ORGANIZING INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT REVOLUTION, BECAUSE OF GOP TAKEOVER OF NEWSPAPERS.

3. WITHOUT NAMING COUNTRY HE LAUNCHED A STRONG ATTACK ON ADMITTED US/CIA INTERVENTION IN EIGHBORING COUNTRIES THROUGH THE SPENDING OF LARGE SUMS OF MONEY AND DECLARED THAT PERU WILL REMAIN ALERT TO FRUSTRATE ANY SIMILAR ATTEMPT BY THE "ENEMIES OF DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE AND LIBERTY". HE ALSO NOTED POSSIBLE THREAT FROM RADICAL LEFT

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AND ITS "IMPORTED IDIOLOGIES".

4. HE ATTACKED THOSE COUNTRIES THAT MAKE EXONOMIC THREATS AGAINST THIRD WORLD BECAUSE THE THIRD WORLD ASKS FOR A "JUSU" PRICE FOR ITS RAW MATERIALS, AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO US IN GENERAL AND PRESIDENT FORD'S RECNT SPEECH IN PARTICULAR. VELASCO STATED THAT "NO COUNTRY, HOWEVER

POWERFUL IT MAY BE, CAN ASSUME FOR ITSELF THE RIGHT (TO THREATEN THE THIRD WORLD) BECAUSE IT DOESN'T HAVE IT. JUSTICE DENIES THAT RIGHT, REASON DENIES IT, HISTORY DENIES IT AND IT IS DENIED, IN THE LAST INSTANCE, BY A MINIMAL SENSE OF HUMANITY."

5. DOMESTICALLY, VELASCO REFERRED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO TWO DIFFICULTIES. HE MADE A LOW-KEY ADMISSION THAT FOOD SUBSIDIES CANNOT RISE FURTHER WITHOUT DAMAGING THE ECONOMY. REFERRING TO STATE-RUN ENTERPRISES, HE SAID THEY COULD BE A SOURCE OF FUTURE PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT THEY WOULD REFLECT "PARTICIPATIONIST" IDEALS OF THE NEW SOCIETY AND WARNED BUREAUCRATS NOT TO BE SWAYED BY HIGH SALARIES AND EXALTED POSITIONS BUT TO BE HONEST. INTIMATING THAT THERE IS CORRUPTION IN HIGH BUREAUCRATIC CIRCLES, HE WARNED THAT "IMMORALITY" WILL BE PUNISHED.

6. VELASCO CLAIMED THAT HIS WAS THE "MOST SOLID, MOST STABLE AND MOST POWERFUL GOVERNMENT IN PERU'S HISTORY". BUT HE SAID THAT IT IS WRONG TO THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT IS "AN ENLIGHTENED VANGUARD WHOSE ONLY MISSION IS TO LEAD". HE DENIED THAT HE IS OR EVERY WANTED TO BE A "CAUDILLO". VELASCO STATED THAT HE HAS THE "RARE PRIVILEGE BUT ALSO THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADING A GREAT COLLECTIVE DESIGN".

7. ON THE INCA PLAN, THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIALISTIC BLUEPRINT, VELASCO SAID: "THE PLAN IS NOT A DOGMATIC SET OF RIGID PRECEPTS. IT IS A FLEXIBLE INSTRUMENT OF ORIENTATION TO BE APPLIED WITHOUT HASTE..." REVIEWING THE GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS, HE ASKED HYPERBOLICALLY "WHEN HAS ANY GOVERNMENT DONE MORE FOR PERU THAN THIS REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT?" HE ADDED "HOW CAN ONE NOT BE TRULY AND VERY PROUD OF BEING PERUVIAN, WHEN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE REPUBLICAN ERA WE ARE UNDERTAKING THIS GREAT TASK WITHOUT SHEDDING A DROP OF BLOOD, WITH POLITICAL PERSECUTION, WITHOUT DESTROYING THE LIBERTY OF OUR COMPATRIOTS?"

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HE REJECTED THE IDEA OF ORGANIZING AN OFFICIAL POLITICAL PARTY SAYING THAT, INSTEAD, THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO CREATE A SOCIAL DEMOCRACY OF FULL PARTICIPATION, DISTANT FROM THE SOCIETY PREACHED BY THE POLITICAL "CAUDILLOS" OF THE PAST.

8. COMMENT: THERE WAS NO MENTION OF FORGING AHEAD WITH SOCIAL PROPERTY, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW TEACHERS STATUTE, URBAN REFORM, REVISIONS TO THE INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY LAW, OR, FOR

THAT MATTER, ANY OTHER NEW "REVOLUTIONARY" INITIATIVE. PERHAPS THIS REFLECTED A TEMPERING OF THE REVOLUTION'S GOALS DUE TO FINANCIAL REALITIES AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE FOREGOING MEASURES. NOR DID VELASCO EXCORIATE THE OPPOSITION OR THREATEN TO PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT RASH OF LOW LEVEL TERRORISM, WHICH HE DID NOT MENTION. IT APPEARED THAT VELASCO DID NOT WANT TO UNLEASH ANY SUCH PASSIONS AS WERE TOUCHED OFF ON JULY 28, WHEN THE INCA PLAN WAS REVEALED AND THE MAJOR NEWSPAPERS EXPROPRIATED. INSTEAD, VELASCO DELIVERED A RATHER ROUTINE ADDRESS, WITH LITTLE OR NOTHING NEW TO TELL THE PERUVIAN FOLK AT THIS TIME. THE SPEECH WAS PERHAPS NOTABLE FOR ITS REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WHERE HE CONCENTRATED HIS REVOLUTIONARY FIRE ON BIG POWER "INTERVENTION" AND "EXPLOITATION" OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

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